

A. L. Becker Papers

COLLEGE  
TMENT

When I was coming to you  
I heard him preach in the  
Japanese Mission Church there  
He was called Dr. Davis  
then and was Superintendent  
of the Home Missions to  
the Japanese in Peking (China)  
Just as Dr. F. S. Smith is now  
The next year he was  
made Missionary Bishop to  
Japan & Korea

(He also came to Hawaii  
on the same Boat (ship)  
We were on 20th Nov. 1905  
I was acquainted with him before  
this conference

This was still a Mission  
and the numbers of  
Missionaries were small  
as can be seen by the  
roll

Arrived Fall - 1905 and  
Died in N. Y. Feb 1938!

I had passed my first Year  
Conference Report of Studies  
Thank D. P.!!

BISHOP M. C. HARRIS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1905.

Opening.—The members of the Korea Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church met for their twenty-first annual gathering in Seoul on Wednesday, June 21, 1905, at 9 A. M., Bishop M. C. Harris presiding.

Roll Call.—The Secretary of the last Annual Meeting, S. A. Beek, called the roll and the following responded: W. B. Seranton, D. A. Bunker, E. D. Follwell, W. C. Swearer, S. A. Beek, E. M. Cable, C. D. Morris, J. Z. Moore, R. A. Sharp, Carl Critchett, A. L. Becker and G. M. Burdick, also N. D. Chew, a lay worker in the Mission.

G. H. Jones, W. A. Noble and W. B. McGill were reported as in America on furlough.

C. S. Deming was reported as having been transferred to the Korea Mission Conference but had not yet arrived on the field.

Question V.—The name of A. L. Becker was called.

the Committee on Examinations reported, and on motion of W. B. Seranton he was passed to the Studies of the Second Year.

The character of A. L. Becker was passed, and he read his report of work on Mang-san Circuit.

Audit—Mission Treasurer.

A. J. Becker, J. Z. Moore.

Accepted

Committee on Education.—On motion of W. B. Seranton a committee was appointed for unifying the courses of study for educational institutions. The Chair appointed D. A. Bunker, A. L. Becker and Miss M. K. Hillman.

and that they be advanced to the studies of the third year.

"As a result of an informal meeting held in Seoul on Saturday, Jun 24, in the First M. E. Church, to discuss the possibility of union in educational work in Korea, a committee was appointed by the Methodist Conference then in session to meet with representatives of the Presbyterian Mission then in Seoul. This second meeting was held at the home of Rev. D. A. Bunker Monday evening, June 26.

"Such an enthusiasm had been aroused at the Saturday's meeting, and such an interest was evinced in this second meeting that nearly all the missionaries in Seoul were present.

"The meeting was called to order at 8.20, and Bishop Harris was asked to take the Chair.

"Hugh Miller was elected Secretary.

"The Bishop after some preliminary remarks called on the Rev. J. S. Gale to lead in prayer.

"The speakers were the Rev. W. B. Scranton, M. D., of the M. E. Mission, Rev. W. D. Reynolds, of the Presbyterian Mission, South, and the Rev. J. S. Gale, D. D., of the Presbyterian Mission, North.

"Mr. Reynolds moved that it be the sense of this informal gathering of missionaries that the time is ripe for the establishment of one Korean national Church, to be called "The Church of Christ in Korea." This was seconded by Dr. O. R. Avison, and unanimously carried by a rising vote.

"It was moved by S. A. Beck that it is the sense of this meeting that the forces of Protestant Christianity should unite in educational work in Korea, and after hearty discussion the motion was carried.

"It was unanimously decided, on motion of Dr. O. R. Avison, that it be the sense of this meeting that the Presbyterian and Methodist forces take immediate steps to unite in carrying on educational work heretofore carried on separately.

"Dr. J. S. Gale moved and it was carried that it be the sense of this meeting that the Presbyterians and Methodists unite in evangelistic work and take steps to bring it to the attention of the respective Missions.

"On the motion of Rev. S. F. Moore it was decided that this meeting suggest the advisability of the various Missions appointing committees to bring about the speedy uniting of educational, evangelistic and medical work.

"Dr. Scranton moved and it was carried that we recommend that power be given this joint committee to expedite the formation of a Council of the Protestant Missions at the time of the Presbyterian Council meeting in the Fall.

"A motion by Prof. H. B. Hullbert carried that it is the sense of this meeting that a mass meeting of all Protestant missionaries be held to form plans for the uniting of the Church in Korea.

"Rev. E. M. Cable moved and it was carried that the time has come for the uniting of missionary periodicals under a joint editorship.

"After singing a verse of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and prayer by Dr. Baird the meeting adjourned."

The Chair appointed the Superintendent, Elders, D. A. Bunker, S. A. Beck, A. L. Beck, Follwell, Dr. R. S. Hall, Dr. Mary M. Cutler, Hillman.

Shall we

Write?

The "readers" were in accord (but the church were not ready!)

This meeting + its resolutions - seemed to show a spontaneous desire in all missions for closer cooperation

Union work?

A union of Presb + John D. White School was proposed but did not work together long but the effort for cooperation.

The Council was organized and functioned for a while

Mission Field was started

8  
2nd 1901; before meeting had had a lot of time



intendent, P.  
Becker, I.  
Cutler, A.

problem is a vital one this year, and presents us, with the changed circumstances in Korea, with a new face. It has been thought wise by the committee on program, that a general discussion of the subject should be held to which all interested in the matter in our mission and other missions will be invited to take part.

Why should men go the United State for an education? Why are private schools starting up so commonly? Why is Pai Chai conspicuous for the absence of larger boys? Why are students ready to pay largely for education in which they have a control or opportunity for expression of opinion, while our school can obtain so small a fee for tuition? What ought the Government to do? What will the Japanese do? Shall we teach English and Japanese? Why are so many studying English secretly? Can we do anything to advance the progress of general education in Korea, and especially among the youth of our Church?

We need to put great emphasis on our primary work. We need three High Schools or four today, one each in Seoul, Pyeng Yang, Kong Chu and Yea-chu, and Chemulpo. These will pave the way for college work later.

After twenty years the principal text books for primary and High School instruction are conspicuous by their absence.

The elementary department in Pai Chai is in excellent working. So also in Pyeng Yang and Chemulpo are these departments ideal.

The educational work in a more systematic way, is knocking at our doors, and unless we find some serious and more cordial way at this Conference, to meet it, we shall not be fulfilling all our duty.

Education will not be complete however that does not provide as well for the instruction of girls or women as for the men. Let us urge upon the W. F. M. Society to join with us in this crusade for further enlightenment among all classes and ages and sexes.

Ewa Haktaug has had a year of trial. Sickness has occupied much of their time and made demands on their strength and taught them that not all of an education comes from books, but much from the practice of patience and kindred virtues.

The teachers have shown themselves apt in these lines, as well as others, and today have our full sympathy in their multiplied troubles. Circumstances, and the expiration of their periods of service, have taken Misses Paue and Frey away to the United States, and the burden has fallen on the able and willing shoulders of Miss Hillman.

### From Report of C. D. Morris.

During the year a building has been purchased in the centre of the city to be used as an annex to our church. This is a valuable property and was secured largely through the generous self sacrifice of W. A. Noble without any expense to the mission. Services have been held in it and an effort made to reach the people of that neighborhood. It has also been used as a bookstore, and at present having no other quarters our newly organized high school holds its sessions there. During the latter part of October we were privileged to have with us Dr. Hardie and Brother Moose of the Methodist Episcopal Church South mission who held a series of revival services. These meetings were a wonderful blessing to our membership. I have never seen deeper conviction for sin than I saw during those days and our church received a permanent blessing which has been manifested since in different ways. During the year each member of our community has labored as they have had opportunity in the interests of our city church. The assistant pastor, Yi Eun Sang, has been an example of faithful diligence. In my necessary absence on the district Mr. Becker had charge of the special services during the New Year's season and Dr. Follwell has throughout the year rendered continual service.

support. Our membership are becoming increasingly interested in the subject of education, and it is our imperative duty to give them all the encouragement possible. During the past few months there has been a constant demand for a school of higher grade in Pyeng Yang and the time seems to have come when we must take steps to satisfy their demands. A beginning has been made and we are raising the salary of a teacher who has been engaged to teach some of the

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COLLEGE

MENT

Report of W. B. S. S. S. S.

Work done at Pai Chai  
was in gatis factory? (17)

Teaching of English  
and Japanese?

3 or 4 High Schools were

No text-books yet

Better schools!

Primary schools in Pai Chai  
Sang Hong, Chemulpo, P. C.  
were making progress

Christian School system  
must be worked out

Dr. Kople in U.S. and  
C. D. Morris in charge of  
P. Y. District

Revival Services!

High School

Early in 1905  
a night school was started

at the same time



The past year has been an exceedingly interesting year to me. I have not lacked something to do very much of the time. Being but an amateur in my knowledge of the Korean dialect and customs my work of a necessity has been somewhat haphazard. However as I have been given the privilege to see and feel the work of the Spirit among those who have been under my charge the past year I thank my Heavenly Father that He saw fit to call me to this field.

There have been some remarkable openings for Christian work in several parts of my circuit requiring so much more tact and experience than I possessed that I now feel that I did not do as wisely as an older man would have done. For instance, several young men came to me in November of last year and said that they with about twenty-five or thirty others had decided to become Christians and wanted me to come to their place, bring books and form a Methodist group. The place was Sun Chung up where the Presbyterians had a small group. I told these fellows to join the Presbyterian group, but they did not want to be

Presbyterians, desired to be Methodists, and insisted so strenuously that I made a call. I finally consented and after going found out that they who would be Methodists were principally young men of the well-to-do class who had organized a day school among themselves. These fellows had been brought to a decisive stand on Christianity by the preaching of one of our Seoul Epworth Leaguers Pak Yong Man, who had been staying in the Up with friends for several months. Perhaps if I had absolutely refused to make this first call these fellows might have gone over to the Presbyterian church but as soon as I had given them this much countenance they could not afterward be persuaded to attend the Presbyterian church. Mr. Bernheisel and I visited the place together but as we could effect no reconciliation I started a group. Thus unintentionally I gave the Presbyterians the impression that we Methodists considered no barriers or policy and intended to go anywhere and everywhere regardless of their groups; and this bore its fruit of trouble for both me and Mr. Morris although it finally led to a more definite understanding regarding the territory to be worked by the two nations in the north. After I began work in Sun Chinn Mr. Bernheisel and Mr. Moffett did not regard my work as formerly and let their helpers go into territory which I had been working with the result that after the spring harvest I found that there were six small towns on my circuit where the Presbyterians and Methodists had work in common. My helpers as well as those of Mr. Bernheisel were fast losing their brotherly love in their denominational fervor and my own spiritual life was not quickened by the stories of proselyting. Finally Mr. Morris, Mr. Moffett, Mr. Bernheisel and myself met and after a frank and brotherly discussion of the situation made a division of territory in which I gave up territory which Mr. Bernheisel would have to travel over while he in his turn gave me the exclusive right to territory in

of song books I have lost many possible converts to the Presbyterians. However, much enthusiasm has been shown by all the older members and leaders; 14 men attended the two weeks men's class held at Pyeng Yang while to women came and studied in the women's class held after the men's in the same place. Wherever I held a class the people encouraged me much by their evident thirst for a knowledge of the Bible. There is but one quarterly conference, at Sen Chang.

The 352 people enrolled as belonging to my circuit are scattered in 15 groups of which number six have churches in which to worship. Four of the groups have over 50 members each. As yet there has been little work done directly among the women outside of Sen Chang so thus far my congregations are principally men. Self-support is almost an untried proposition on this circuit although I have been working up the river the past year. So far the entire strength of the groups on this circuit has been used in getting suitable places of worship, providing fuel, light etc. as the people that live among these rocky hills are generally quite poor it may be some time before there will be anything like complete support in this section. However the Sen Chung church has given about 10 yen for a preacher as well as two yen for the Tract Society outside of supporting a day school.

And as I look as at Sen Chung

Report after two years  
overriding this circuit  
I have founded 15 groups and  
I suppose I did create  
a new and living mission  
with all my little influence  
and back of Patagonia I  
had done what I could  
to bring some light to  
this district -  
This was

Probably more of a "New Life" -  
movement; never amounted  
to much as a Christian group.

This was my first experience  
with denominationalism. Up  
to this time both sides as had  
been developed by the  
and idea of certain  
rather as definite determined  
territories. Certain missionaries  
had after all and per-  
suaded certain circuits  
for their churches and at-  
tended where workers - groups  
were relatively small in  
numbers there had been no  
opposition from one side  
but this showing the difference  
as the numbers of Christians  
grew in the early times  
were good for both sides  
and where they met  
to a new group of the  
own denomination. This  
was shown as really a step  
of fellow missionarism.  
This was made to be  
that our two brothers



1905

A. L. BECKER PAPERS (1905)

"Christ and His Trenches in Korea"  
Chapter IV (Continued)

# 249

19

people:-

Pyeng Yang, Korea, Feb. 2nd, 1905

I received Lula's letters of Dec. last, nos. 22, 23 a few days ago; they full of interest as usual to a pioneer out on the frontier of Missionary work. About Thanksgiving and Christmas, I see that Lula and Leonard made many flying visits to Aunt Ann. And it was nice that my brother and sister could call upon the beloved Louise as long as I can not be there to help cheer her up a bit. It is after her father's sudden death, as you know; Louise wrote me that it gave her a little 'lift' seeing that you came from a distance to comfort her. I have not heard whether she was able to spend Christmas with you all or not; I hope that she did for sure that such a visit would have been mutually beneficial.

I sent you some more camera 'snaps'; I hope that you will get them. Since I wrote last letter to you, I have been traveling some; starting about Jan. 10th with a Presbyterian Missionary, named Bernheisel, out in the country to settle a local church disturbance, about 35 miles from here. It was about starting a Methodist group near a place where there is already a Presbyterian Church. The matter was decided tentatively in my favor so I organized 27 probationers into a Methodist group; I stayed over Sunday with them in order to get better acquainted with them. I found that nearly all from 'well-to-do' families and were mostly young men who wanted to learn modern ideas and had heard of the Methodist Mission Epworth Leagues for young people and thought an American Methodist Missionary could help them. I was entertained very nicely in the home of one of the prospective members, a leader of the group. For the first time I lived three days only on Korean food.

After I got back to Pyeng Yang, John Moore wanted me to take a trip out in his territory where I had not been so I left again on the 17th, I went on foot and the first day walked about 23 miles to a place where there was one of the older groups, about 100 members in the church. Here I talked to the assembled group in the evening. The next day I went on to another place where Moore had a group of 50 or 60 gathered for Bible study. So, as I am just getting to the place where I can handle my tongue fairly well in the use of the native vernacular, I enjoyed the teaching very much.

On a Sunday we received 25 new seekers on probation, baptised 20 and served the 'Communion' to over 150 Christians: this day was a very inspiring one to me as these natives of mature age seemed so serious and seemed to have grasped some of the deeper elements of the Truth. On that same Sunday afternoon in another meeting the subscribed enough to hire their own preacher (without the necessity of using Mission funds) becoming self-supporting.

On the 23rd John went back to Pyeng Yang but I determined to visit some other churches; going 7 miles, I stopped at a church with 30 members and stayed until Wednesday, teaching the Bible in three sessions a day, morning, noon and evening; then on to a Magistracy town where there is another Methodist congregation; there I held a service in the afternoon and evening; there the people came in to see and hear me from the country around the town; I held one service where there were at least 150 packed into the fairly large church building; here the people seemed to understand me quite well as they complemented me by saying;-"Moksa, there are no Korean words you do not know."

The next morning I found snow on the ground making it difficult to walk. However I finally got to Chemsampo Chinampo, (The port on the mouth of the Great East River) The Mission has a Rest-house here so I enjoyed clean and roomy place of rest. Some of my new Probationers, young men from my Mang San Circuit, who were on their way to America happened to be here waiting for a boat at this time. They heard that I had come to town and called to see me; I used the opportunity to give them some good advice and as they wanted to go to school over there I gave them letters to some of the Profs. in Albion College.

In the evening of my arrival held a service in the Methodist Church here and the house full came and we had a good meeting together tho I had not seen only 2 or 3 of them before.

After a good night's rest I started back to Pyeng Yang; on the way after walking about 17 miles I stopped at a small Methodist church of about 30 Christians and preached a sermon, I reached Pyeng Yang the next day by walking about 25 miles.

Since then I have been studying and interviewing Koreans in the forenoons visiting the members' houses in the afternoons and leading services in the evening. This is



because we are having a sort of revival for two weeks; already about 75 men and women of good standing in the community have given in their names as seekers since our special services started; the Korean pastor is a very zealous and eloquent preacher. As Dr Noble is now on furlough in America, just now I am living in his big house alone and acting as assistant pastor to the big Church right near, next door to this place.

And I have also been organizing our boy's school too not far away on the other side of Noble's house; this school now has three regular teachers with 60 boys in attendance, trying out Western methods of teaching as well as some western subjects. I give lessons to three of the oldest ones.

With Love to all Arthur

Dear People;—

Pyeng Yang, Korea Feb 20th. 1905

It is now 11 o'clock at night and I ought to be in bed but I thought that I must just write a few lines to you all.

Lula's last letter which came a few days ago, she mentioned that father had two offers of good farms so I presume that by this time he had decided where you all will be for the next 3 or 5 years (I really hope that you can settle down in one place and stay there for 5 years.)

Tell Leonard that he had better hang onto 'Lizzie' for he may not get another as good; I liked Lizzie myself (from a distance) Leonard, you must give her my regards. Tell her I think that she is all right and that I am willing to become her brother-in-law. Well Lula you say you weigh 117 lbs; that's enough for your figure, don't overeat!

I think that my weight was 192 lbs. I wonder if father would like to me use some of my avoirdupoise in helping him? Well! I wouldn't mind feeding the pigs or horses but I, as father knows, wouldn't be any good at milking cows! But, I wouldn't mind putting my feet under dad's table for a few meals just for a change of diet!

We were glad to hear that the things that we sent for your Christmas arrived all right. Louise sent me a book which arrived on time but the tie from Lula did not come.

I have been helping hold a revival in our big church near us. I had to do all the 'overseeing' of the services morning, afternoon and evening as well as take an active part myself at times. I preached my first ~~service~~ series of 'revival' services in the native tongue during this period. I'm sure they understood a good part of what I said as they paid such good attention when I talked. We enrolled about 200 new seekers during the period.

For the last few days I have been holding a Bible class about 5 miles out in the country going back and forth each day. To-morrow I am going out with Chatley Morris, now Acting District Superintendant while Dr Noble is away in America. He will hold Quarterly Conferences on my circuit.

Then, for about two months, must keep hard at work on language work so I can pass my examinations at the Annual Conference which will be held in Seoul.

The Japanese have nearly finished the railroad between here and Seoul. In June or July I hope we can go down to Seoul by the railroad (About 200 miles) That would save us a lot of time and trouble getting to Seoul and back. I don't like those little steamer rides up and down the coast; they are hard and dangerous.

Well, I must close as it is getting late and I have to get up early in the morning. Ever the same Arthur

Dear Family;—

Pyeng Yang, Korea March 26th, 1905

How's that new farm? Have you moved yet? I'm still here in Noble's house I haven't moved yet but have got our 'Dove Coy', a little house down under the hill ready or partly ready to accommodate Louise as well as myself. As soon as the Nobles and Louise come (I think I told you that Dr Noble offered to bring Louise out to Korea) I will be glad when I can leave this big old house and have a little cosy fireplace of my own. It seems a long while until September when they are scheduled to arrive but I suppose time will roll around as all things seem to do if one waits.

For the present I am studying as hard as I can with little variation from day to day with the exception of talking to different people and having to face little emergency problems both here and on my circuits at week ends. I have to keep my class leaders, colporters all working and in line. This week I got good reports from my work; new believers springing up every where. As Bibles and Christian books are in great demand, I sent two horse loads to them. There is certainly a great opening for Mission work this year up here. The Russo-Japanese War caused a lot of hard-ship to the Korean People up here but it certainly aroused them from their 'Age-old-Sleep' he is just finding out that he must be up and stirring or the World will roll over him.



The Japanese are misusing the Korean common people shamefully; trying to get a hold on all the industries of the country; taking land without paying what it is worth; in one section of Pyeng Yang City the immigrating Japanese have forced all the Koreans living there to leave on one pretext or another so they can get the land to build upon. The Korean Government has broken down so much before the Japanese on slaughts that the poor people can't get any help; It makes one's blood boil to see the poor, helpless Koreans driven from their homes sometimes with little or no compensation. In some ways it would be better to have some responsible Japanese working with Korean official, if they could work together; just now there is only confusion and the poor people are left in the lurch. Of course the Japanese who are coming in and settling are the adventurers who will try to seize anything he can get his hands on.

Good bye for now Lots of Love Arthur

Dear People:-

Pyeng Yang, Korea, May 9th, 1905

I want you to know that Arthur is still in fine health and on 'fighting line'; I'm sure on the line where action is going on altho you can hardly call it 'the red blood-thirsty kind! That kind is taking place a little to the North of our location. I intended to write to you last Sunday but I had to our foreign Community (in my own tongue this time); so while tearing my hair over preparing that sermon I had no time or inspiration to write anyone.

There is now a Japanese Advisor in the local Korean Government; one bit of evidence that he is pushing things, some things at least, in the right in the right direction is a very commendable effort to fix up and widen the main streets of the city which have been lanes of mud in rainy weather; of course, the Korean merchants are grumbling about this but it will prove a great benefit to them to have hard roads not to speak of the benefit to the shoppers who want to use them. I am glad to see some benefit coming to the Koreans from the usurpation of the government by the Japanese. Seeing the large number of Japanese pouring into the city almost every day is very disturbing to the Koreans and to us who are thinking of what the Koreans are suffering

I spent a Sunday a week ago in a place called Nyong Byen, a Walled city where Rev Charley Morris is building a home expecting to move there next year; it is about 75 miles north of here. We covered the distance on horse-back in two days.

I am studying and helping in church and school. Our Annual meeting has been put off until June 7th.

Love to all the members of the Family

Arthur

Dear People:-

Pyeng Yang, Korea April 23rd, 1905

I hav'nt heard from for about three weeks so I am anxious to get the next mail maybe it will bring me the news that I want.

This is Sunday and Easter Day and I have just returned from the morning service in the native church. The members have decorated the front part of the church with flowers so as to remind me of Churches at home in some respects. A group of young men sang an Easter anthem, then a some young women followed suit (but not together!) A class of blind girls from Mrs Dr Hall's school also sang a song. They all did quite well for a Korean with their training; there was some lack of harmony. Charley Morris preached the sermon in the native tongue very well. The big church was crowded full; women on one side and men on the other side of screen between.

I came back from a two weeks trip up on my northern circuit; when I started on the trip I expected to be gone about 5 days but when I got started I had to keep going until I had traveled almost over the complete circuit. The way that the Gospel has spread in the north is wonderful; no equalled by any other Mission in the world just now I understand. On this one trip, I started new groups in three large towns with 5 to 10 heads of families as believers in each group; I have ~~to~~ new churches under construction and took in 35 new members, of whom nearly all were heads of families so that it is sure that our number will be more than doubled in the near future by the addition of wives and children. There is much enthusiasm among the leaders and native class or group heads as well among the members at large so the good work is sure to go on. Some of the members walk 10 or 15 miles to preach to relatives or friends.

On my return journey I walked about 180 miles in 13 days so I was glad to reach Pyeng Yang again even tho I had really enjoyed my trip.

Rev John Moore came back from Japan with his bride on Thursday last. Dr Follwell and his wife gave them a reception; I had charge of the decorations. (Isn't it queer how I'm picked to do the decorations; this is the second time, at a wedding, here in Pyeng Yang. I informed the community that I was not going to do the decorating at



my reception which I anticipate is coming soon. There happened to be two visiting gentlemen from Seoul and one from China and most of the members of the P.Y. community were present at this 'blow-out'. The bride and groom acted very well considering their ages (27 and 31). The bride was very plainly dressed (I hope my bride will have a pretty wedding dress!)

The first passengers (Of the Foreign Community) came from Seoul to P.Y. last Friday; there wasn't much white about them as they came off from a flat-car! It took 12 hours to cover the 200 miles; not very fast, I admit but better than 6 days of horseback riding overland or 3 days trip (On the average) bobbing up and down on the little coasting steamers. Our Annual Conference comes off June 7th so I hope we members from here can get a ride on one of those 'flat-cars'.

I hope all is well in your household; father, mother, Leonard Lula and Ralph. When is that big brother of mine going to 'step off' in other words, get married? I have heard so much in your letters about 'that girl' that I am a bit suspicious; please give me plenty of notice if there is to be anything serious as I want to send something.

I hope Uncle Dell and Aunt Belle will come back and settle down near you for you can get along so well with them that you will be mutually helpful to each other.

Tell Ralph to write as I want to see, if his hand-writing has improved or not.

With love from your Arthur

Dear Family;-

Pyeny Yang, Korea May 28th, 1905

I'm sure that you are waiting for a few words from your Korean Missionary so I will send a few words to say that that I am well and getting on fine with the exception that September seems so far off that I'm sometimes a trifle impatient!

I received 'Sis's' last letter a few days ago. I thought you said you would write once a week? I have not received that many recently!

I am quite busy just now trying to establish in the city a sort of 'Day and Night school for the young men of our churches in the city and the country round about; Of course, they are mostly seekers after the Truth of Christianity yet they have so much faith in what Christianity can do for them!

I have employed a young teacher from Seoul, who has been studying English, Chemistry, history, Geography and algebra as well as Arithmetic for the last 4 years at Pail-Chai. The hours of study arranged for afternoons and in the evenings, from 7 to 11 o'clock. I have been teaching in the evenings and give the some kinds of callisthenics.

This school is a departure from the usual rule here to date; I have requested all those who wish to enroll to cut off their 'Top-Knots' put aside their unsuitable horse-hair hats and wear caps and uniforms made of some economical materials; so far about 30 young men have been accepted on an examination of their knowledge of Korean and Chinese. So I've had my hand full for the last 10 days with the organizing and supervising of this school; there was the teacher to instruct as to methods of teaching; the rules and schedule of studies; the school rooms to be prepared; the question of hair, hats and clothes discussed in all their 'pros and cons'; exhortations in public and in private with parents and friends of the students on the need and value of western methods.

But, as I love to work with and for young men, I was right in my own element and didn't mind the long hours and strenuous efforts.

There was another matter that was linked up with my efforts in my new school and it took some of my time and energy. About a week ago several of the richer Korean men of the city (Some Christians and some non-Christians) sent word by our Big Church Pastor, Rev Yi Un sung, that they would like to confer with me about doing something in the educational line for the young men and boys of P.Y. So I sent word to them to come to my house in the evening of a certain day; I was surprised at the number that came and more than surprised, at the way these responsible men of affairs spoke out about their confidence that Christianity and modern education should go together in wide plans for developing schools for the Korean young ones; more than half of those who attended were not Christians and some were ex-magistrates of influence. They asked me and Rev Yi to draw up a constitution for an organization so that they all could work together for educational institutions so that their sons and daughters could be learning western methods and ways of life so that they might not have to be slaves to the Japanese who were flooding the city. Before they left they formed themselves into a society established to facilitate the institution of 'Special Schools' for Korean Youth and Children and made me the chairman and Rev Yi as Secretary.



Dear People;--

Seoul, Korea, June 29th, 1905

You see That I am in Seoul for the present; I have been here since the 18th attending the Annual Conference; the sessions closed the day before yesterday but I have not yet returned to Pyeng Yang. I am just resting a few days before going back. I expect to board a flat-car going north July 3rd.

When I came down I had my first ride on the rail-road; it was not pleasant because we had to sit on our baggage in the hot sun on the flat-car among the Japanese; we had to endure the cinders and smoke as well as the jolting over the rough road-bed for about 12 hours but all in all better than other way to get to Seoul as I have said before

The Conference was very interesting to me. And I took the examinations which finished my first year of the Theological Course; this exam was given me by Dr George Heber Jones and I don't think he was too hard on me. I also took the exams for the 2nd yr of the Korean Language Course which I passed fairly easily altho it was not an easy examination; I almost surprised myself as I had been thinking I was a bit dumb in languages. I certainly worked hard on my preparations for it. I was writing on these exams for three whole days; reminded me of College days. I will be glad when I don't have to look forward to examinations.

I know you will be surprised to hear that I have been appointed by Bishop Harris to be 'Principal' of the not yet fully organized Methodist Academy for Boys in P.Y. The Lord works in mysterious Ways. I was just hoping and doing what I could for the Young men of Pyeng Yang; a formal appointment to educational work seemed far off. As it became evident that the Methodists of P.Y. must have an Academy I was the only man in line for it. I was picked out for the job; the Korean Christians of P.Y. sent a petition with a string of names 14 yards long (Thousands of names) to this conference asking that I be sent back as an Educational organizer and teacher so I have the job I wanted and I am happy. I believe the Lord puts His willing workers into the places where their talents and training can be best used.

The Presbyterian Mission of P.Y. have a large Academy under the direction of Dr Baird and there is talk of the two Missions uniting in the High School Work; I would teach Geometry, Algebra, Physics and Chemistry. For all that I know just now that arrangement would suit me for you know how I love to teach Mathematics and Science. I'm afraid that mother thought that I was throwing away all my training as a teacher when I came to Korea; what do you think now, mother?

School Work will keep me in the city and so it will be nice for Louise; if I had to itinerate in the country I would have to be away from home 3 or 4 weeks at a time for a good part of the time during a year.

Carl Critchett and I have been rooming together since I came to Seoul. Carl seems happy in his itinerating job and is healthy; and he is looking forward to having Anne with soon just as I am. In fact, he and I and Mr Chew, who is a new assistant in the Tri-lingual-press of the Mission, are all three planning on our trip to Japan together to meet our brides. We expect that the three young ladies will all come with Dr Noble and we will meet the boat when it docks at Yokohama harbor.

I hope that Louise has been able to pay you a visit as she certainly wanted to do so. I tell you I'm tired of this 'single blessedness' and am willing to venture on the vicissitudes of matrimony-- yes, rather impatient that I have so long to wait!

My health is good; my long walks in the country have toughened me so I am in good shape, physically; even the warm weather and the rainy season is upon us, I do not mind. While here I have played tennis every day nearly; this makes the perspiration run down my face like it used to do when I was pitching hay at home with you.

May the dear Lord protect and keep you is my prayer. Lots of Love Arthur



Dear Home-Folks;-

Pyeng Yang, Kores, August 6th, 1905

I'm again at my old desk and thinking of you-folks at home. I have just received a letter from Louise dated July 2nd, in which she describes her visit to your home so I am forced to believe that there are still some around my old home who have not forgotten me. I heard all about the gifts of dishes, cups and saucers, shirts, etc. and I hope some day not too long from now to see some of the evidences of your love! Louise's visit was very short but according to her words, "very sweet" She said she helped some on the shirts which were designed for a 200lb Korean and that she enjoyed a fine dinner at Aunt Susie's home. I hope that you thanked Aunt Susie for making Louise's stay enjoyable. I was sorry to learn that Louise could not stay longer. She also reported that Father was looking a bit 'thinner' than when I left; perhaps that is because he is working hard in the hot summer time; haying and harvesting! But Father, you must not forget to think of your health. Just now I am feeling that rather disconsolate as Louise has said that she will not leave U.S. until August 30th, at which time I had expected that she would be out here.

I had made plans made to go to Japan this month and now I must put off everything until Sept. It sure is hard for me to postpone this trip at this season of the year when I can do little else but think how nice it would have been if I could have used this leisure time with Louise having a honeymoon in Japan! My plans are not only disconcerted but I ought to organize my school opening early in September. I will have to make a 'flying' visit to Japan, meet Louise, get married and have a short hurried honeymoon and get back here by the first of October. The Mission is willing that I have a 'vacation' in the summer but naturally expect me to begin my school work in September. However I shall expect to cut my 'Wedding Trip' short tho no one will ask me to 'hurry back' because there is no lack of 'sentiment' among the missionaries. I had expected to spend several weeks in Japan with Louise but she herself has decreed otherwise by her delay in coming!

I have already received a wedding present of \$5.00 from Mrs Dr. Hall; she told me to have Louise buy an appropriate 'Wedding Present' what she would like. And several others here have told me that they have a wedding-present laid aside for us!

When I came away from the Brittish Gold Mine, where I spent last Sunday I went around by a place called "Chap-hai", where our Methodists have a large church congregation; I led a meeting there in the evening; I was able to give them a 'greeting' and a short memorized sermon and led them (Or tried to lead them) in singing some songs, whose music I knew from this place, which is a sort of port on a branch of the Tai Tong Kang (Great East River). I managed to get a ride on a boat load of wood going down to Pyeng Yang. So I floated down stream for 180 li (60 miles) perched on the load of wood. I slept one night on the boat (not very comfortably or soundly) but wakened very early and coming the last 10 miles before 8 A.M. I arrived on August 1st feeling pretty good. But I was a bit hungry as I had only some bowls of rice, given by the boatmen on the way down but as I didn't have to exercise much I didn't need a great deal of food. I had been away on this trip into the country for about 3 weeks and I was ready for the comforts of my own room.

On the 2nd of August I had a lot of callers, whom came to tell me how glad they were to see - that I had come back safely.

On the 3rd, The Rev. Mr Hulbert of Seoul, Missionary teacher in a Government School and the Editor of a Magazine, 'The Korean Review', came to call on me and asked me to go with him to see a large cave about 25 miles across the river, North of Pyeng Yang. So as I had had a desire to go see it myself for sometime and was 'nt inclined to get down at work, I said that I would go with him. The next morning Prof. Hulbert and I got up early and started; Hulbert took along his bicycle, altho I warned him that the roads would be too rough to be useful. Before we had gone far the wheel was out of business and had to be left at a wayside house until our return. As the temperature soon got up to about 100 (being August) along with our having to walk over a rather rough road you may guess that we soon <sup>were</sup> perspiring quite freely (In the course of our tramp we had quite a conversation)

As Hulbert was an old Resident of Korea and had an unusual reputation as a very versatile and capable man with exceptional energy and enthusiasm and as I had read a number of his Articles in the Korea Review (which he also edited) I was quite curious about him and this was the first opportunity I had had to talk with him. I decided to take advantage of this occasion. So as we walked along, I started to quiz him, saying, "How did you happen to come to Korea? He looked up at me blankly for a moment, as if his mind



had been far away but then his face lighted up and he said with a 'grin' "It's a long story but, if you are really interested, it will do me good to recall some of it." and then "Wait a Minute, my big toe hurts" Then he stopped, sat down beside the road and taking off one of his shoes, took out a pocket knife, slashed the toe of the boot, then putting the boot back on, said, "There now, I can walk painlessly. Lets see - it was in 1884, just about 21 years ago! Yes, I was just 21 years old, studying at Union Theological School in New York. At this time my brother Henry, who was 4 years older than I, had decided to go to Beirut, Syria to teach for a three year period. He and I had been very close in many ways and we had shared many an adventure, some were exploring caves; it is probable due to the enthusiasm aroused in me by him that I am here to-day on my way with you to Korea. "La Casa" cave! And about this same time I had been stirred by a new vision of world-wide adventure and Christian Service, when, to me, a rather astonishing thing occurred; my father had received a letter from the State Dept. saying that the King of Korea had requested that three well-qualified young teachers be sent to Seoul, Korea for the purpose of opening a school for Western Learning under the support of the Government of Korea.

As Henry had already got his eye on Beirut, I got the chance and I was just ready in mind and spirit so I 'jumped at it' as there was the adventure and Service I wanted. I was qualified as I had trained myself for a teaching job. It would be impossible for me to describe my 'sensations' at the prospects of such a tremendous adventure into the so-called "Hermit Nation" for Korea at that time was almost unknown to the Western world. So I was selected along with Bunker and Gilmore. But while I was finishing my school work and preparing to go, a 'reform Party' of young Koreans, educated in Japan, seized power in Korea by gaining control of the Royal Family and resorting to assassination of the obstructive, conservative Cabinet. Tuan Shi Kai's Chinese Forces (Having been called in by the Conservatives) drove out the 'progressives', and made it impossible for the King to take further action for more than a year on his favorite Project of beginning the English Speaking School for young nobles. It was only with the aid and encouragement of the young American Faulk (An American Government Representative) that the King finally put thru to the American State Dept. a new request for three American Teachers late in the year of 1885.

So I was translated to the 7th Heaven and quickly gave my consent. So the three previously selected all boarded the boat, called "The City of Peking" at San Francisco in May, 1886 and arrived in Chemulpo, Korea on July 4th. Of course, strangers and not having any knowledge of the language or just what we should do, we had a lot of trouble with pack ponies, chair-coolies going about 25 Miles up to Seoul over a narrow road, which twisted and turned between 'rice paddy fields' but the four of us including a young American lady doctor who came out to be the physician for the Queen (who latter became Mrs Bunker) arrived in Seoul very weary tired-out and sought out a Japanese Inn and settled down for the night. But somehow the news of our arrival had got around and Mr Underwood came rushing over to give a 'Welcome' to Korea; he gave us such an enthusiastic greeting, like that of an old friend, that we were cheered and refreshed enough to go with him over to be welcomed by other Missionaries, and all were put to bed rest in comfortable American beds. Underwood had arrived in Korea the year before and was just a little older than I was. Well, I liked and trusted him from that first day and we became good friends and a working team up to this very day; he helps me with my projects and I help him with his projects. Well, does this answer your question?"

I was deeply moved by Hulbert's account of his unusual response to a call to work in an unknown country at such a youthful age. Quite outside the Usual Missionary Way, which assumed a deep religious consecration to the 'saving of Souls' And was a bit surprised at my own feeling of approval; in other words, I felt as if I would have reacted the same way to the same opportunity. In my heart, I had been motivated by much the same desire for adventure and educational service, so I said, "I arrived here 2 years ago with much the same idea you had; to establish and teach in schools for the Korean youth, so I am very eager to hear about the 'Royal School' you came out to establish." Mr Hulbert stopped dead still and looked me over as if he was just now 'seeing me'. He stuck out his hand and said, "So, you are another 'fellow educator' - Well! Well! from the good 'old pattern' eh, what? I will be most glad to tell you of the 'attempt' we three made to meet the King's demand or request. When we were recruited, we assumed that we would really initiate 'Western Learning' in Korea, but when we came two years later,



We found that Missionaries had already been at work in <sup>the town</sup> schools for a year or more with the King's permission; Underwood teaching in a Government Medical School; Appenzeller in Pai-chai and Mrs Underwood-- Scranton had started a girl's school at Ewa; Tall pioneers in education in Seoul, aided by Faulk at the American Legation. Our Royal School was opened in the fall of 1886 in a small newly built building near the homes of the teachers, the Missionaries at Chong Dong <sup>and</sup> American Legation. We started school in a plain bare room, furnished with a few unpainted tables and backless benches. There was a platform, a crude blackboard with crayons! ~20 so-called students, selected by the King from the families of the Nobles of the city. These came furnished with paper and pencils but no books, as none were to be had. The Korean students knew no English and the teachers knew only a few sentences of the Korean language. We teachers were supposed to teach English to pupils, who had very little incentive to learn, except to please their King (Of course, a failure to learn would mean disgrace at court for the boy and his family) We had to face some very hard problems; 1st, text-books, did the teachers have to provide them? 2nd, almost all of the conservative officials, whom they could consult with, were indifferent or actively opposed to the work of the school and indirectly discouraged the students so our enthusiasm was hard to maintain!

My hope that we might start training these young men in a broad and effective way, as to spread Western Learning to the Korean Public was immediately dashed to the ground. So we painfully and slowly tried to do our best several hours a day, to get our lazy, unenthusiastic pupils to learn some English words and sentences. Their many hours each day was taken up with Korean Assistants trying to learn Korean language and to make up simple lessons for the use of the students. One of the Text-books I gradually evolved was called "Sam-min-pil-chi" (Useful Knowledge for Everyman); In this, I used the 'Unmun' so as to get the ideas across and give the book common utility. I considered vital what the Koreans needed the most in these early days was a geography of the world but including much knowledge that our old Geography did not contain. What those boys did not know about countries outside Korea was about 'everything' Details about Governments, revenues, industries, education, religion, armies, navies, colonies; they needed a bird's eye view of the world before they could even make sense of even the English words they were learning. But I would not have got far, if it had not been for Underwood, especially; he was a friend indeed--he worked with me, played tennis with me, and I was in and out of his home constantly; I would get discouraged at times, but his enthusiasm, his vision as well as his faith in the future of Korea always rekindled my ambition-- I might have failed and gone back home without him. Young man, hitch your wagon to his Star, if you are an educator and, if he lives, he will help you to build up a University in Korea; but you will have to get down to Seoul." // "Thanks, very much, I shall remember what you have said," said I. "But the king was friendly to you and trusted you a lot, how did this happen?" Well, there again, said Hulbert, Underwood helped me, as the king already admired him and trusted his judgement, so I had the daring to devise a sort of examination of the 20 boys of our school; this worked out, as Underwood and Faulk spoke kind words about me to the king. The King did a very unprecedented thing; he agreed to conduct the examination himself. Then later when the King gave some skating parties on a small lake in front of the King's Pavilion, I ventured to explain this American Sport and demonstrated some skill, myself to the great enjoyment of the King, the Queen and all his Retinue. My contract and those of Bunker and Gilmore were renewed for a second three years, in 1888 " //

I 'piped up' again, "In 1893 you joined our Mission and became the Manager of our Methodist House and were with us for 4 years; was not that quite a change in your objectives?" "No, I don't think so, said my road-companion, It all seemed to fit into a broader vision of useful and appealing work that I could do and get me out of a rut! I was afraid I was getting into. My work in school had showed me what a 'dirt' of up-to-date literature there was in Korea; the teachers had nothing to fall back on for text-books or outside reading so I got deeply interested in the work of publishing and using the 'Unmun' to give to the people at large, as well as students, some literature. In the Press I attained my ambition after about two years; I had printed more than a Million pages of mostly religious literature printed in the native 'Han-kul' (Unmun) And after printing many articles in the "Repository" Magazine by what was called then "The Tri-lingual Press" I started writing the "History of Korea" translating from the Original books written in the Chinese characters; My first efforts then were Articles on "The Origin of the Korean People" There I got a chance to associate closely with the Missionary groups of Seoul--



We stopped at a point near the cave and secured a native guide and climbed up a mountain at a 45 degree incline nearly to the top before we reached the 'hole' was a black orifice in the earth; the hole was small and insignificant; one could have passed it by as a shallow small cave. And did not promise much to pay for all our effort to get here. It was about 4 P.M. We put on our coats and sweaters as the guide said that it would be very cold in the depths of the cave.



We literally slid into cave because the decent inside was so steep --and wet--well we slid in spite of possible consequences following the guide's leading-- backing down rearward! Having arrived at level ground we lit 3 candles, one for each of us. Yet it was such a sudden transition from bright sun-light to such Stygian darkness that we had to stand still for several minutes before we could see anything. When our eyes became accustomed to the change we proceeded. This cave seemed to be peculiar in that it seemed to be a long string of caves like an irregular by tunnel, which sometimes went up and sometimes went down; sometimes enlarged to an immense cavern with stalagmites and then contracting to a low and narrow slit. As it was the rainy season, the bottom of the caves was covered with water in many places so we had to wade in our shoes and stockings; that water was cold-ugh! ; it chilled the marrow in my back-bone! The Korean guide was anything but brave; whether he was affraid of the ghost of his grand-fathers, which might be wandering around in these gloomy depths or he dreaded to offend the mountain spirits, he began to make excuses and reasons why we should'nt go too far; our candle light would'nt be sufficient; the water was too deep ahead; there was nothing to see beyond a point he showed us. Finally when we had gone about half-way, the fellow refused to go farther even tho Hulbert 'tongue-lashed' him in fluent Korean language, but as we could not force him, we went on alone as we wanted to see all that was to be seen. We soon came to an immense Chamber which had just enough sky light from some small opening, which made a most beautiful, weird scene. When the guide left, we started dropping bits of paper so we could find our way back as there were many corridors branching off from the Immense cavern. But after we left the big cavern we were blocked by deep water and after trying out offshoot tunnels and coming to dead-ends we finally turned back. We figured by the time we had walked that we had walked at least a mile before we turned back. We saw many stalactites; one was just like a big bird with wings spread for flight. Some Stalagmites like limestone pillars which reached up so high that they seemed to support the roof. One immense stalagmite in the center of a big cavern looked just like an immense stack of hay or straw and curiously enough on the Apex of one such, a form resembling a man seems standing.

When we crawled out of the cave mouth after about two hours in its cold depths, the air outside seemed almost stifling hot in contrast. We found our unworthy guide waiting on the outside (Of Course, he wanted his pay but Hulbert said that he didn't deserve anything, however he relented and paid the fellow  $\frac{1}{2}$  what we originally promised. We immediately began our downward march to the place  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles away to where we had left our lunch. After eating our lunch, at about 7 P.M. we started walking back to-wards Pyeng Yang as Prof. Hulbert was very anxious to get back so that he could catch the train to Seoul to-morrow morning. I did not care particularly about retracing our steps for I had enough walking for one day but as Hulbert insisted I finally consented to follow even tho I ~~was~~ by private opinion that he would not make it!

On our way back just before it was completely dark we had to cross a stream, where we had to take off our clothes and wade holding our clothes over our heads; the current was so strong that we were nearly taken down stream and in the efforts to save ourselves we hurt our feet on the jagged rocks of the bottom. I had to help Hulbert as we had already walked ten Miles after supper and he was all tired out. I persuaded him to stop and we persuaded a Korean to give us a mat and we laid down on his porch outside. We are so tired that we went right to sleep and slept until 11:30 when mosquitoes got so bad to get up. We ate some more of our lunch; bought a Korean lantern from our host who was very good-natured about being disturbed in the middle of the night. We started on at about 12 O'clock; Prof. Hulbert was limping but resolute about getting back. In spite of our lantern (not a very good one) we fell into ditches and stepped into mud holes got off on wrong roads! Hulbert is a courageous soul for in spite of being dead-tired he joked with me and told 'funny' stories.

Along about 2:30 A.M. Hulbert 'threw up the sponge'--and said he could not go any farther; I tried to explain that we were only 6 or 7 miles from Pyeng Yang but I could'nt get my partner to take another step-- we had walked about 35 miles since 6 A.M. in the morning; I was very willing to stop myself, being really dead-tired myself. So we waked up the inmates of a little house by the roadside and demanded a place inside to 'rest'. The Owner sleepily said "All I can give you is a place on the floor among those already there." There were already about eight people spread out sleeping on bare mats in a room about 8 by 16 feet. The Owner kicked those at one end of the room (His Family) made them move over! It was not long before, having pulled off wet shoes and stockings, we had stretched out side by side on a mat and immediately fell sound to sleep!



223

Hulbert and I visit a cave (1905)

I awakened about 5:30 A.M. and feeling quite refreshed rolled over and touched Hulbert who awoke and said gruffly, "What do you want?" I told him that it was nice and bright outside and that we had better get over the last 5 miles before the sun got too high and then perhaps he could catch his train to Seoul! He said very shortly, "We have all day for it, why hurry!" However, I got up and pulled on my still wet shoes and Hulbert seeing me up got up with no more remarks But I noticed he grined and grunted some while getting on his shoes. With many 'Ohs' and 'Ahs' he finally said, "My legs are so stiff that I can hardly move them" I could hardly help from laughing at his 'drole' figure as he limped off beside me; but he was a good sport and smiling said, "I'll make it but don't walk too fast." Strange to say I was not only a bit stiff and felt like striding off at a 4 mile gate and I could see that it irritated Hulbert, altho he tried to cover it up because I appeared to be in fairly good shape. He certainly hated to have to walk that five miles. But finally we got back and sneaked in the back-way by the by-paths so that we would not meet anyone that we knew in such a dilapidation. Prof. Hulbert went right to bed at my place and he kept to that room most of that day and until the following morning.

When he was about to take his train, he said jokingly with a big grin and hearty hand-shake, "I will never forgive you for nearly killing me after I had started out so boldly to show you how 'cave-exploring' was done." But I shall always remember you and our trip to 'Casa' cave."

You may be sure I did not escape all the consequences of that extra strain; I had to take some extra sleep and felt anything but ambitious for a day or two but then I was not sick or lame in anyway; taking it all in all, I stood that trip quite well; it showed that I was in excellent physical condition. However I learned quite a number of things about the need of careful preparations and a clear-cut knowledge of what I was likely get myself into and this kind of lessons proved very valuable in my future life.

With Love      Arthur



